

Message Text

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42

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 MC-02 FEA-01 AGR-10

CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-02 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 AID-05

CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01

SP-02 OMB-01 /128 W

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R 230520Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5543

INFO AMCONSUL PERTH

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USDEL MTN GENEVA

AMCONSUL BRISBANE

UNCLAS CANBERRA 2513

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, OECD, AS

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN IMPORT RESTRICTIONS: DECISION
ON TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE TO CONSUMER ELECTRONIC
EQUIPMENT AND COMPONENTS INDUSTRY ANNOUNCED

1. SPECIAL MINISTER OF STATE (SMOS) ANNOUNCED APRIL 21
THAT HE HAD ACCEPTED RECOMMENDATIONS OF TEMPORARY
ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY (TAA) THAT NO URGENT ACTION NEEDED
TO PROTECT LOCAL MANUFACTURERS AGAINST IMPORTS OF COLOR
TV RECEIVERS, BUT THAT PROTECTION WARRANTED AGAINST
IMPORTS OF CERTAIN MONOCHROME TV RECEIVERS, PICTURE
TUBES AND SOME COMPONENTS. THE U.S. IS A SIGNIFICANT
SUPPLIER OF COMPONENTS COVERED BY THIS REPORT. TRADE
DETAILS FAR TOO EXTENSIVE TO TRANSMIT BY TELEGRAM.
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2. TAA FOUND THAT DURING THE PERIOD MID-1974 TO END 1974, IMPORTS OF MONOCHROME TV SETS HAD INCREASED FROM ALMOST NEGLIGIBLE LEVELS TO APPROXIMATELY 119,000 UNITS. ACCORDINGLY, TAA JUDGED THAT THERE WAS CAUSE FOR PROVIDING TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE TO MONOCHROME TV RECEIVERS AND PICTURE TUBES WITH A SCREEN SIZE OF NOT LESS THAN 17" AND RECOMMENDED AN ADDITIONAL 10 PERCENT AD VALOREM, BRINGING DUTY RATE TO 45 PERCENT.

3. IN AREA OF COMPONENTRY, THE TAA CONCLUDED THAT THERE WAS A CASE FOR PROVIDING TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE TO FOLLOWING PRODUCTS: CERTAIN FIXED ELECTRICAL CAPACITORS OF FIXED POWER FACTOR CORRECTION, ELECTROLYTIC, PAPER, METALLISED PAPER, PLASTIC AND METALLISED PLASTIC TYPES; TERRITE CORES, SLUGS AND OTHER SHAPES; AND LOUDSPEAKERS. ADDITIONAL DUTIES OF 10 PERCENT AD VALOREM WERE RECOMMENDED WHICH WILL RAISE TARIFF RATE APPLYING TO MOST OF THESE PRODUCTS TO 45 PERCENT.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH CABINET HAS ACCEPTED TAA RECOMMENDATIONS, AND ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS TO IMPLEMENT THE CHANGES ARE BEING FINALIZED, CABINET IS EXPECTED TO RECEIVE SOME PRESSURE FROM CERTAIN LABOR CAUCUS MEMBERS TO REVERSE THE DECISION. INDUSTRY SOURCES PREDICT "SUBSTANTIAL" RETRENCHMENTS IN THE TV INDUSTRY AND MAINTAIN THAT MANY LOCAL MANUFACTURERS WOULD STOP PRODUCING COLOR TV IN FAVOR OF IMPORTING SETS FOR THE DOMESTIC MARKET.

5. TEXT OF SMOS PRESS RELEASE AND COPIES OF TAA REPORT FOLLOW BY AIR POUCH.
GREEN

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